AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method that solicits a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ), the RFQ being generated by a processor at a requester computing system and including job information for a requested job indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services from a supplier, the method comprising:

    providing registration information from the requester computing system to a registration component;

    downloading an RFQ generation engine to the requester computing system;

    after the RFQ generation engine is downloaded to the requester computing system, displaying a predetermined RFQ template having a plurality of displayed fields and a textual label for each of the fields identifying a type of information in the field;and

    using the RFQ generation engine at the requester computing system to enter the job information into the plurality of displayed fields, the plurality of displayed fields comprising:

        a category field receiving an indication of a category for the requested job,

        a job description field receiving a description for the requested job,

        an item field receiving an indication of an item to be supplied,

        a quantity field receiving a quantity of item to be supplied,

        a geographic location field receiving a location for the item to be supplied,

        a delivery date field receiving a delivery date for the requested job,

        an award criteria field receiving an indication of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier, the criteria indicating the delivery date field and price, and

        a date of delivery field receiving a delivery date for the requested job, and

        an expiration date field receiving an expiration date for the RFQ;

    using the processor to save the RFQ template including the entered job information in a data store local to the requester computing system;

    using the processor to send indexing information related to the RFQ template to an index

remote from the requester computing system;

receiving, at the requester computing system, ~~one or more replies~~an RFQ reply ~~to the~~based on the RFQ template from one or more suppliers, the RFQ reply including the delivery date and price; and

~~automatically~~ the processor evaluating at least the delivery date and the price specified by the RFQ reply~~evaluating, at the requester computing system, the one or more received replies based on~~the award criteria in the RFQ template ~~saved in the local data store,~~ and identifying a winning supplier based on the evaluation.

12-37. (Cancelled)

38.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-implemented method that employs a processor, the method~~ system comprising:

~~registering with a request for supplier quotation (RFQ) index builder;~~

a processor;

one or more storage media storing instructions, which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

~~receiving~~ receive an RFQ template at a supplier computing system describing a requested job ~~from the RFQ index builder,~~ the RFQ template including a plurality of fields displayed at the supplier computing system, the plurality of displayed fields comprising:

    a description field of the requested job,

    an item field including an indication of an item to be supplied,

    a quantity field including a quantity of item to be supplied,

    a geographic location field including a location for the item to be supplied,

    an award criteria field for the requested job, the award criteria field identifying one or more ~~of the plurality of~~other fields in the RFQ template and being indicative of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier~~a manner in which~~

~~criteria entered into the one or more fields will be~~ ~~considered by a manufacturer in awarding the requested job~~ ~~to a supplier,~~

a supplier predesignation field indicative of suppliers authorized to reply to the RFQ template,

a date of delivery field including a delivery date for the item to be supplied, and

an expiration date field including an expiration date of the RFQ;

determine whether a location in the location field meets filter criteria;

in response to determining the location does not meet filter criteria, the processor rejecting the RFQ template;

~~using~~use an RFQ reply engine at the supplier computing system to ~~generate a~~ ~~reply to the RFQ template~~ determine whether the supplier is authorized to reply to the RFQ template by analyzing the supplier predesignation field,

if the supplier is authorized to reply, the processor generating a reply to the RFQ template by evaluating the requested job described in the fields of the RFQ template and providing information requested in the RFQ template; and

~~transmitting~~transmit the reply from the supplier computing system to a manufacturer computer system that generated the RFQ template.

39.   (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-implemented method~~system of claim 38, ~~the RFQ~~ ~~template further including~~wherein the supplier predesignation field is ~~filter criteria~~accessible by the suppliers to identify RFQs for reply.

40.   (Currently Amended) The system ~~computer-implemented method~~ of claim 38, ~~the RFQ~~ ~~template further comprising~~wherein the geographic location field includes a geographic location for the ~~manufacturer~~service provider.

41.   (Currently Amended) The system ~~computer-implemented method~~ of claim 38, the RFQ template further comprising a field for specifying quality standards.

42-44. (Cancelled)

45.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~implemented~~ readable storage medium storing instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform steps that solicit~~method that solicits~~ a response to a request for supplier quotation (RFQ) indicative of terms for delivery of goods or services by a supplier, the ~~method~~ steps comprising:

          providing an RFQ template using an RFQ generation engine at a manufacturer computing system, the RFQ template having a plurality of displayed job information fields and a textual label for each of the fields identifying a type of information in the field, the plurality of fields including:

                    a job category field,

                    a job description field,

                    a delivery date field,

                    a location field,

                    a supplier pre-designation field,

                    a quality standards field, and

                    an award criteria field;

          receiving, in the ~~RFQ template~~ job description field, job information pertaining to a requested job;

          receiving manufacturer filter criteria into the supplier pre-designation field indicative of particular suppliers that are authorized to reply to the RFQ template;

          receiving, in the location field, a geographic location of the manufacturer;

          receiving award criteria into the award criteria field indicative of criteria considered in awarding the requested job to a supplier, the award criteria field identifying one or more other fields in the RFQ template;

          receiving criteria into the quality standards field indicating quality standards which are to be met by the supplier;

          saving the RFQ template including the job information and the award criteria in a data store ~~local to the manufacturer computing system~~;

sending indexing information for the RFQ template;

receiving, at the manufacturer computer system, ~~one or more~~a plurality of RFQ replies to the RFQ template from a plurality of ~~one or more~~ suppliers, each of the RFQ replies including supplier terms for the requested job; and

~~evaluating the one or more received~~the processor evaluating the supplier terms in each of the RFQ replies based on the award criteria in the saved RFQ template ~~saved in the local data store~~.

46.   (Currently Amended) The computer ~~implemented method~~readable storage medium of claim 45, wherein the plurality of fields in the RFQ template further comprises an RFQ expiration date field.

47.   (Cancelled)

48.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~implemented method~~ of claim 45, and further comprising:

sending manufacturer registration information from the manufacturer computing system to a registration component; and

downloading the RFQ generation engine to the manufacturer computing system, wherein the RFQ generation engine sends the index information to a remote index component over a network.

49.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~implemented method~~ of claim 45, the category including a code.

50.   (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium ~~implemented method~~ of claim 45, the RFQ template further including a quantity of goods.

51-53. (Cancelled)

54.   (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the indication of criteria received in the award criteria field identifies one or more of the plurality of fields in the RFQ template and ~~being indicative of a manner in which criteria entered into the one or more fields will be considered by a manufacturer in awarding the requested job to a supplier~~ each of the one or more of the plurality of fields is weighted in the evaluation of the RFQ reply.

55.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of displayed fields in the RFQ template further comprises a quality of materials field.

56.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 55, further comprising the processor evaluating the quality of materials in the RFQ template.

57.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising:

in response to identifying the winning supplier based on the evaluation, notifying the supplier.

58.   (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the processor evaluates the item field, quantity field, geographic location field, and quality standards, and generates the reply to the RFQ template based on the evaluation.

59.   (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the processor generates a price based on the item field, quantity field, and geographic location field, and transmits the reply including the generated price.

60.   (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 45, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to identify a winning supplier based on the evaluation.

61.   (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 45, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to notify the supplier, in response to identifying the winning supplier based on the evaluation.